PUWER Compliance

WORK EQUIPMENT | SUITABILITY | INSPECTION | TRAINING | 2026-27 REVIEW CYCLE

Document Ref	Version	Status	Issue Date	Next Review	Owner
RI-COMP-001	2.2	APPROVED	01 October 2026	01 October 2027*	Rugby Inflatables

Purpose and scope

This controlled document records how Rugby Inflatables manages work equipment where the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) apply. It covers selection, suitability, inspection, maintenance, safe use, information, training and control of equipment used for delivery, installation, operation, supervision, collection, cleaning and storage. It does not replace manufacturer instructions, PIPA/ADIPS inspection requirements, BS EN 14960-1:2019, electrical-safety controls or site-specific assessment.

Equipment within the arrangement

The arrangement includes inflatable play equipment and blowers; plugs, leads, connectors and RCD devices; anchoring equipment, permitted indoor restraint/ballast and mats; handling aids, trolleys and hand tools; generators when hired for Rugby Inflatables work; and portable ancillary equipment such as speakers where used as work equipment.

Management boundaries - Rugby Inflatables policy

Rugby Inflatables controls equipment supplied and used for its work. Customers and venue representatives are not authorised to repair, modify, relocate, disconnect or alter installed equipment.

Specialist electrical work, safety-critical repairs, generator electrical design and other specific-risk work are restricted to people competent for the task.

Basis of the 2026-27 revision

Prepared against guidance available on 01 October 2026. HSE continues to identify suitability, maintenance, inspection, specific risks, information/instructions and training as core PUWER duties. HSE inflatable guidance updated 10 June 2026 also requires operator-manual controls, regular recorded pressure and outdoor wind measurements, suitable anchorage, pre-use deflation-rate testing and annual competent inspection. BS EN 14960-1:2019 remains listed by BSI as current and under review.

Compliance statement

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This document supports Rugby Inflatables' compliance arrangements. It does not certify that every item, site or hire is compliant. The actual equipment manual, inspection status, condition, site and competent-person decisions remain controlling.

1. Equipment control and suitability

RESPONSIBLE: OWNER / EQUIPMENT CONTROLLER / SETUP LEAD

1.1 Maintain an identifiable equipment inventory

- Identify safety-relevant work equipment by make/model, serial or asset number where practicable.
- Link inflatables to their blower(s), PIPA/inspection record, manufacturer instructions and known operating limits.
- Record acquisition, significant repair, retirement or quarantine so an unsuitable item cannot be selected by mistake.

1.2 Select equipment that is suitable for the task and conditions

- Use equipment only for its intended purpose and within manufacturer limits.
- Consider user group, capacity, dimensions, access, ceiling/side clearance, indoor/outdoor use, surface, anchorage, electrical supply, manual handling, weather and supervision before selection.
- Do not treat a successful previous hire as evidence that a different site, surface or venue is suitable.

1.3 New, hired or borrowed equipment

- Before first operational use, obtain the information needed to use the equipment safely and verify any required inspection/test status.
- Hired equipment remains subject to Rugby Inflatables site and work controls; supplier instructions do not remove the need for local assessment.
- Resolve missing manuals, identification, safety information or conflicting limits before use.

1.4 Conformity and supply information

- Where product-supply legislation or conformity marking applies, retain relevant supplier information. PUWER suitability is an ongoing user duty and is not satisfied merely because equipment carried a conformity mark when supplied.

HOLD POINT - selection
Do not release equipment to a booking if required instructions, identity, inspection status, operating limits or safe site method are unresolved.

2. Inspection, maintenance and defect control

RESPONSIBLE: OWNER / COMPETENT INSPECTOR / TRAINED OPERATORS

2.1 Pre-use and installation inspection

- Inspect equipment before service and again as part of setup where condition can change during transport or installation.
- For inflatables check fabric, seams, bed/walls, netting, steps/slide areas, anchor fittings, blower, tube, non-return flap, mats and restraints.
- For electrical equipment check plugs, leads, connectors, casings, guards and obvious signs of damage, overheating or water ingress.
- Confirm the complete installed system is stable, correctly inflated, adequately restrained and free from foreseeable hazards before release.

2.2 Periodic and competent inspection

- Maintain annual competent inspection of inflatable play equipment through PIPA or another appropriate recognised inspection route where applicable.
- Keep inspection/test certificates and resolve conditions or defects before the equipment returns to service.
- Inspection intervals for other equipment are risk-based and must reflect manufacturer guidance, environment, frequency of use and previous findings.

2.3 Maintenance and repair

- Maintain equipment in an efficient state, efficient working order and good repair.
- Use manufacturer-approved or technically suitable repair methods; safety-critical work must be performed by a competent person/specialist.
- After significant damage, repair or modification, determine whether additional competent inspection/testing is required before return to service.

2.4 Defect isolation

DEFECT ISOLATION

Quarantine suspected unsafe equipment, identify it clearly and prevent inadvertent issue. Record the defect and action. Return it to service only when the cause is resolved and any required inspection/test has been completed.

3. Safe use, controls and stability

RESPONSIBLE: SETUP LEAD / OPERATOR / SUPERVISOR WITHIN ROLE

3.1 Controls and energy sources

- Use start/stop and isolation arrangements that are understandable and accessible to trained personnel.
- Isolate electrical power before maintenance or access to moving parts. Live electrical work is not part of normal Rugby Inflatables operations.
- Do not bypass guards, non-return devices, RCDs, fuses or other protective features.

3.2 Stability and restraint

- Install inflatables in accordance with the unit manual and current RI setup procedure.
- Outdoor inflatable restraint uses all required anchor points and suitable ground stakes on Rugby Inflatables approved grass/soil sites; indoor restraint follows the actual manufacturer method.
- If stability, anchorage, ground or restraint cannot be verified, the equipment is not used.

3.3 Environment and foreseeable conditions

- Control weather, water, heat, lighting, public access, overhead/side clearance, ground condition and vehicle interaction.
- For outdoor inflatables, recorded anemometer measurements and regular internal-pressure readings form part of the operating controls.
- Stop use for abnormal pressure, movement, damage, unsafe weather, loss of supervision or another condition that defeats a safety control.

3.4 Protection from hazards

- Keep guards, covers and barriers in place. Protect people from hot surfaces, sharp edges, moving parts, exposed stakes, cable routes, electrical danger and other foreseeable contact hazards.
- Use impact-attenuating mats where required by the inflatable setup and surface.

4. Information, training and specific-risk work

RESPONSIBLE: OWNER / TRAINED STAFF / COMPETENT SPECIALISTS

4.1 Information and instructions

- Provide staff with relevant equipment instructions, operating limits, stop triggers and emergency actions in a form they can understand.
- At customer handover, provide the information needed for safe supervision and explain that handover does not authorise installation, repair or relocation.
- Keep current controlled documents and actual unit manuals accessible to those who need them.

4.2 Training and competence

- Setup/collection personnel are trained for installation, restraint, blower connection, pressure checks, site assessment, dismantling and defect recognition within their role.
- Staffed-event personnel are trained for active supervision, capacity control, stop triggers and escalation.
- Refresh competence following material change, new equipment, an incident/near miss, observed shortfall or significant change in guidance.

4.3 Specific-risk activities

- Restrict tasks that present a specific risk to persons appointed and competent for that task. Examples include electrical fault diagnosis/testing, safety-critical inflatable repairs, generator electrical arrangements, significant equipment modification and specialist inspection.

4.4 Modifications

- Do not modify equipment in a way that could affect safety without competent assessment, manufacturer/inspector input where appropriate and updated documentation. A modification may alter inspection, conformity, operating limits or risk controls.

Competence boundary
Training to set up and supervise inflatables is not electrical-design competence, repair competence or competent-inspector status. Work must stay within the person's demonstrated role and capability.

5. Records, review and controlled interfaces

RESPONSIBLE: OWNER / DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

5.1 Minimum records

- Equipment inventory/identification and manufacturer information.
- PIPA/other competent inspection certificates and relevant blower identification.
- Electrical inspection/testing and defect/repair records.
- Setup/site and online handover records, including required pressure/wind measurements.
- Maintenance, quarantine, repair and return-to-service decisions.
- Training/competence and significant incident/near-miss records.

5.2 Interfaces with other controls

Apply RI-COMP-002 for electrical work equipment, RI-SOP-001 for installation/collection, RI-SOP-002 for supervision, RI-SOP-003 and RI-RA-004 for generators, RI-GD-001/002 for heat and weather, and the relevant equipment risk assessment. Where documents conflict, stop and resolve the conflict with the owner and competent specialist.

5.3 Review triggers

Review at least annually and earlier after legal/guidance change, new equipment, a material change in work method, a significant defect, incident/near miss, repeated control failure, manufacturer notice or evidence that existing arrangements are inadequate.

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Owner / equipment controller	Maintain suitability, inspection/maintenance, competence and quarantine arrangements.
RI operational staff	Use equipment within training/instructions, complete checks, report defects and stop when controls fail.
Competent specialist / inspector	Carry out assigned specialist inspection, testing or repair within competence and provide records.

Technical sources checked 01 October 2026

HSE L22 / INDG291 PUWER guidance; HSE inflatable safety advice (updated 10 June 2026); BSI BS EN 14960-1:2019 (current, under review).

Revision history

Version	Date	Change	Status
2.1	23 Aug 2026	Previous approved issue; administrative cross-reference refresh.	Superseded
2.2	01 Oct 2026	Expanded 2026-27 arrangement: suitability, inspection/maintenance, isolation, competence boundaries, HSE 2026 inflatable controls, records and review gates.	Approved review